

OROVILLE FACILITIES RELICENSING

ALTERNATIVES TO BE CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative: The Oroville Facilities would continue to operate under the terms and conditions of the existing license, and no new environmental or recreation protection, mitigation or enhancement measures would be implemented other than those arising from existing legal obligations. Any unaddressed ongoing effect would continue. Existing PM&E measures would continue. This alternative serves to establish the basis for comparison with other alternatives.

Settlement/Comprehensive Resource Alternative: The primary goal of the collaborative process is to reach a written comprehensive resource settlement agreement that will serve as the basis for the new license and other regulatory approvals necessary for the new license, resolve some or all of the ongoing disputes that arose from the original license and may include on a case-by-case basis, resolution of disputes that are related to future operation of the Oroville Facilities, but that may be outside of FERC's jurisdiction. The settlement alternative cannot be described with any particularity at present. As negotiations proceed on potential PM&E measures, greater clarity will be possible. The ultimate description of the settlement alternative must await execution of a settlement agreement. However, the intent of the comprehensive settlement agreement is that, through collaborative discussion, an effective environmentally superior alternative will be developed. Examples of the types of potential PM&E measures which may be aggregated in the settlement alternative include:

Land Use and Management – Improvement of access to project lands, development of or amendments to current project land use plans, and improved coordination among State, federal and local land use agencies.

Recreation and Socioeconomic Resources – Modernize existing recreation facilities, revise current LOSRA general plan (including clear framework for inter-agency coordination), plan for facility expansion (develop criteria and procedures), and consider new recreation facilities.

Environmental Resources – Adjust in-stream flow and temperature regimes, address impacts from operation and maintenance activities, manage lake and river fishery resources to meet resource needs and legal requirements, assist in the development of a management plan for the Oroville Wildlife Area and provide additional aquatic habitat in the lower Feather River.

Cultural and Historic Resources – Development of long-term cultural and historic resource management plan for project area, protect significant cultural and historic sites, facilitate repatriation of Native American remains and associated funerary objects, reduce conflicts between recreation and cultural resource

protection, and assist in development of co-management procedures of Native American archaeological resources from Butte County.

Mitigation Alternative/Non-Settlement: While the ultimate goal of the collaborative process is to reach a settlement agreement as described above, that goal may not be achieved before January 2005 when DWR's application must be filed with FERC. The filing of an application which is not based upon a settlement agreement does not preclude an eventual settlement. However, DWR would be required to submit its proposal for a new license. This non-settlement alternative is one that would be based primarily upon meeting the legal requirements of reducing significant impacts to a less than significant level. Existing PM&E measures under the current license would likely continue. Applicant-developed additional PM&E measures, different from those that would be developed in a comprehensive settlement agreement, may be proposed.

Alternatives Described and Eliminated from Further Analysis:

SD1 identified several alternatives that will be eliminated from further consideration. These alternatives include: 1) federal takeover; 2) no power generation; and 3) dam removal (decommissioning). These alternatives are being rejected because they do not satisfy the Department's purpose and needs. In SD2, these alternatives would be described more fully, and the rationale for their elimination will be presented.